

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for use in a file system including at least one server and one dis[e]k storage device for access by at least one client, said method comprising the steps of:

[a-] attaching said client to said file system; and

[b-] reading a formal description of the file system by said client from said dis[e]k storage device, wherein the formal description of the file system enables said client to find and interpret at least one data structure that includes file information that enables the client to directly read and write data to and from said dis[e]k storage, block allocation for the data being performed by the server, and wherein the formal description of the file system lacks a data structure that includes file information.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein reading a formal description further comprises:

reading enough information to find and interpret the physical block and offset containing a given file's inode given its inode number.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 2, wherein reading a formal description further comprises:

reading enough information to find and interpret the block list of a given file given an offset into the file and a length.

- 4.-5. **Cancelled.**

6. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 3, wherein attaching said client to a file system comprises:

sending a mount request; and

receiving a mount response.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 6, further comprising saving said formal description for future use when an I/O request is made by said client.
8. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 7, further comprising associating said dis[e]k storage device with a Storage Area Network (SAN).
9. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein said client and said server are implemented on the same hardware.

**10.-15. Cancelled.**

16. **(Previously Presented)** A method for reading or writing data from a storage resource, the method comprising:

acquiring, from the storage resource, a description of a file system associated with the storage resource, wherein the description of the file system enables a client to find and interpret at least one data structure having file information, and wherein the description of the file system lacks a data structure that includes file information; and

finding and interpreting at least one data structure that includes file information for reading or writing directly to the storage resource based on the file information, block allocation for the data being performed by a server.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 16, further comprising reading or writing data blocks associated with the file system.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 16, further comprising:

on the basis of a file identifier, finding and interpreting a block and an offset, the block and the offset being associated with a file on said file system.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 18, further comprising:

on the basis of an offset into a file and a length, finding and interpreting a block list associated with the file.

20. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus for reading and writing data from a storage resource, the apparatus being configured to:

acquire, from the storage resource, a description of a file system associated with a storage resource, wherein the description of the file system enables a client to find and interpret at least one data structure having file information, and wherein the description of the file system lacks a data structure that includes file information; and to

find and interpret at least one data structure that includes file information for reading or writing directly to the storage resource based on the file information, block allocation for the data being performed by a server.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a computer configured to read and write data blocks associated with the file system.
22. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a computer configured to read and write files associated with the file system.
23. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the computer is configured to find and interpret, on the basis of a file identifier, a block and offset associated with a file.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the computer is configured to find and interpret, on the basis of an offset into the file and a length, a block list associated with a file.

25. **(Previously Presented)** An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer executable instructions for causing a computer to:

acquire, from a storage resource, a description of a file system associated with a storage resource, wherein the description of the file system enables a client to find and interpret at least one data structure having file information, and wherein the description of the file system lacks a data structure that includes file information; and to

find and interpret at least one data structure that includes file information for reading or writing directly to the storage resource based on the file information, block allocation for the data being performed by a server.

26. **(Currently Amended)** The article of claim 25, wherein the article includes instructions for causing the computer to write data blocks associated with the file system.

27. **(Currently Amended)** The article of claim 25, wherein the article includes instructions for causing the computer to write files associated with the file system.

**28.-32. Canceled**

33. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the formal description of the file system includes an algorithm used to implement the file system.

34. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 16, wherein the description of the file system includes an algorithm used to implement the file system.

- 35. (Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the description of the file system includes an algorithm used to implement the file system.
- 36. (Currently Amended)** The article of claim 25, wherein the description of the file system includes an algorithm used to implement the file system.
- 37. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the formal description of the file system does not include an algorithm used to implement the file system.
- 38. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 16, wherein the description of the file system does not include an algorithm used to implement the file system.
- 39. (Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the description of the file system does not include an algorithm used to implement the file system.
- 40. (Currently Amended)** The article of claim 25, wherein the description of the file system does not include an algorithm used to implement the file system.